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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01

AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W
---------- 093656
R 180000Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5260

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, ETRD, MX, CU
SUBJECT: MEXICO AND CUBA EXCHANGE VISITORS

1. CUBAN VICE PRIME MINISTER CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ SHOWED UP HERE UNANNOUNCED AND UNEXPECTED (AT LEAST BY MEXICAN PUBLIC) LATE YESTERDAY. PUZZLED NEWSMEN REPORTED THAT RODRIGUEZ WAS VIRTUALLY SWEPT OFF HIS FEET BY 50-ODD SECURITY POLICEMEN, AS HE DESCENDED FROM REGULAR CUBANA FLIGHT FROM HAVANA, THEN HURRIED INTO A "LUXURIOUS" DIPLOMATIC LIMOUSINE WHERE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO LOPEZ MUINO AWAITED HIM. ALTHOUGH NO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AS TO PURPOSE OF RODRIGUEZ' VISIT, AN UNIDENTIFIED CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE ASSUMED HE WOULD BE SPEAKING WITH PRES. ECHEVERRIA.

2. MEANWHILE, WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS AIR OF MYSTERY, CONASUPO DIRECTOR JORGE DE LA VEGA DOMINGUEZ DEPARTED TODAY FOR HAVANA AT THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION WHICH ALSO INCLUDED TWO OF THE PRESIDENT'S LEFT-LEANING BROTHERS-IN-LAW, RUBEN AND JOSE GUADALUPE ZUNO ARCE. ACCORDING TO DE LA VEGA, ITS MISSION IS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN CONASUPO AND CUBA'S ALIMPORT, A SIMILAR FOOD IMPORTING AGENCY OF THE GOC. DE LA VEGA ADDED THAT THE TWO AGENCIES, REPRESENTING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MAJOR IMPORTERS OF MILK (SIC), WERE
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"ALREADY EXPERIMENTING WITH SYSTEMS FOR COORDINATING STOCKS

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AND PURCHASES BY MEANS OF JOINT OPERATIONS".

3. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ' VISIT PERHAPS RELATES
TO PRES. ECHEVERRIA'S LONG-PLANNED VISIT TO HAVANA AND
MAY INDICATE THAT A FIRM DATE IS ABOUT TO BE FIXED.
ON OTHER HAND, CONASUPO VISIT TO HAVANA IS, IF ANYTHING, MORE
MYSTERIOUS IN CHARACTER THAN THAT OF RODRIGUEZ'. IT REPRESENTS FIRST
WE HAVE HEARD OF ANY SORT OF COOPERATIVE FOOD IMPORT OR
STOCK-SHARING PROGRAM BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PRESENCE OF
ZUNO ARCE BROTHERS, MOREOVER, GIVES MISSION AN UNUSUAL
POLITICAL IMPETUS -- AND LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO AN OTHER-
WISE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT IN THE END MRS. ECHEVERRIA
WILL BE MAKING THE BIG TRIP TO HAVANAIN HER HUSBAND'S
STEAD.
JOVA

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